

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/678,470

Examiner

Dr. Kelechi C. Egwim

Applicant(s)

BONE ET AL.

Art Unit

1713

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the filings 12/19/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 13-28.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 021006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Rimma Mitelman on 2/21/06.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **IN THE CLAIMS**

In claim 13, line 3, between "to" and "a", insert – the beginning of –.

In claim 13, line 3, between "laundry" and "cycle", insert – wash –.

In claim 13, line 4, before "water soluble package", delete "the" and substitute thereof –a--.

In claim 13, at the end of line 13, after "rinse cycle of", delete "a" and substitute thereof –the--.

In claim 19, delete ", more preferably from 80 to 99%, most preferably from 88 to 99%.

In claim 20, delete ", more preferably 2 to 30%, most preferably 5 to 15%, e.g. 8 to 12%".

In claim 21, delete “, more preferably 1:4 to 1:20, most preferably 1:7 to 1:15, e.g. 1:8 to 1:13”.

**PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING CLAIMS:**

Claim 21: (New) A process according to claim 13 wherein the polymer has an average degree of saponification of from 80 to 99%.

Claim 22: (New) A process according to claim 13 wherein the polymer has an average degree of saponification of from 88 to 99%”.

Claim 23: (New) A process according to claim 13 wherein the degree of derivatisation of the polymeric backbone by the derivatising group is from 2 to 30% by weight, based on the total weight of the polymer.

Claim 24: (New) A process according to claim 13 wherein the degree of derivatisation of the polymeric backbone by the derivatising group is from 5 to 15% by weight, based on the total weight of the polymer.

Art Unit: 1713

Claim 25: (New) A process according to claim 13 wherein the degree of derivatisation of the polymeric backbone by the derivatising group is from 8 to 12% by weight, based on the total weight of the polymer.

Claim 26: (New) A process according to claim 13 wherein the polymer is based on PVOH and the number ratio of the derivative groups to the free hydroxyl pairs on the backbone is from 1:4 to 1:20.

Claim 27: (New) A process according to claim 13 wherein the polymer is based on PVOH and the number ratio of the derivative groups to the free hydroxyl pairs on the backbone is from 1:7 to 1:15.

Claim 28: (New) A process according to claim 13 wherein the polymer is based on PVOH and the number ratio of the derivative groups to the free hydroxyl pairs on the backbone is from 1:8 to 1:13.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Related prior art such as AT 408548, EP 2060906, WO 97/19961 and US 5,135,982 fail to teach the solubility properties and contacting the contents of the package with fabric in the rinse cycle of the washing machine.

Other prior art, such as US 4801636 and US 6,492,315 fail to teach the water soluble polymer with C4 to C22 hydrocarbyl chain derivatising groups in the process.

Art Unit: 1713

None of the prior art was found to teach or sufficiently suggest a process for conditioning fabrics comprising the steps of:

1) adding to the beginning of a laundry wash cycle of a washing machine, in the drum of the washing machine, a water soluble package comprising a film of a polymer with a water soluble backbone and one or more derivatising groups from a C4 to C22 hydrocarbyl chain parent material attached to the backbone, wherein the polymeric film has a solubility or dispensability in anionic or combinations anionic/nonionic surfactants of more than 15 minutes when the surfactant concentration in water is greater than 0.05 g/L and a solubility or dispensability of less than 15 minutes when the surfactant concentration in water is less than 0.05 g/L; and

2) contacting the contents of the package with fabric in the rinse cycle of the washing machine in the drum of the washing machine.

Thus, claims 13-28 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Kelechi C. Egwim whose telephone number is (571) 272-1099. The examiner can normally be reached on M-T (7:30-6:00).

Art Unit: 1713

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KELECHI C. EGWIM PH.D.  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

KCE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'KCE' followed by a stylized flourish.